

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 2, 2018

***APPROVED***

The reorganizational meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by former Council President Dan DePaul in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

District Judge Richard Yetter swore in Dan DePaul as the new Mayor of the Borough.

Mayor DePaul swore in Jeff Breidinger, Jr., Desiree Lake and Paul James to a new term. New Council member, Matt Dees, was sworn in by District Magistrate, Richard Yetter earlier in the day. Roll was taken and Mayor DePaul noted there was a quorum.

Council members in attendance were Henry Nodoline, Matt Dees, Bob Lewis, Paul James, Pete Mammana, Jeff Breidinger, Jr., and Desiree Lake. Mayor Dan DePaul; Solicitor Robert Eyer substituting for Steve Goudsouzian; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Senior Borough Clerk, David Gehman and Treasurer, Carl Pierson were in attendance. Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober was absent. Members of the public in attendance were Kayli Reily, Jean Johnson, Shern Reily, Richard Reily, Bill and June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Deborah James, Liz and Norm Hanni, Leon Stull, Chris Catalano, Jeff Briedinger, Sr, Lisa Briedinger and Ray Walters. District Judge Richard Yetter was in attendance to swear in the Mayor and new Council members.

Mayor DePaul commented that the 2016-2017 Council was the best group of people that he ever worked with.

Mayor DePaul opened the floor for nominations of Council President. Mr. James was nominated by Mr. H. Nodoline. Mr. Dees was nominated by Mr. James. Mayor DePaul moved to close nominations.

Mayor DePaul requested a voice vote for Mr. James as Council President: Mr. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. James – Abstained, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Breidinger, Jr. – Yes, Ms. Lake – Yes. Vote 6 – 0 with 1 abstention. Mr. James is elected as Council President.

Mayor DePaul opened the floor for nominations of Council Vice-President. Mr. Mammana nominated Mr. Nodoline and Mr. Lewis nominated Mr. Dees. Mayor DePaul closed nominations for Vice-President.

A voice vote was taken for Mr. Nodoline for Council Vice- President: Mr. Nodoline – Abstained, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. James – No, Mr. Lewis – No, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Breidinger, Jr. – No, Ms. Lake – No. Vote: Yes – 2, No – 4 and 1 abstention

A voice vote was taken for Mr. Dees for Council Vice- President: Mr. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – Abstained, Mr. Breidinger, Jr. – Yes, Ms. Lake – Yes. Vote 6 – 0 with 1 abstention. Mr. Dees was elected Council Vice- President.

Mayor DePaul opened the floor for nominations of Council ProTem. Mr. Breidinger, Jr. nominated Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis nominated Mr. Breidinger, Jr. Mayor DePaul closed the nominations for Council ProTem.

A voice vote was taken for Mr. Lewis for Council Pro-Tem: Mr. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Abstained, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Breidinger, Jr. – Yes, Ms. Lake – Yes. Vote 6 – 0 with 1 abstention. Mr. Lewis was elected Council Pro-Tem

Mayor DePaul turned the gavel over to new Council President James.

Council President James asked if there was anyone from the public in attendance that would be willing to head up the Vacancy Board. There were no volunteers. Mr. James said we would revisit the appointment at the next meeting.

### **Public Comment –**

**Carl Pierson (Treasurer) of Ninth Street** – Mr. Pierson told Council that he would appreciate any comments that they have on the monthly Treasurer’s Report. He said he would be willing to talk to anyone from Council to answer any questions that they had.

**Jeff Breidinger, Sr. of Third Street** – Mr. Breidinger, Sr stood and commented how proud he was of his son taking an active role in the Borough government. Mr. Breidinger, Sr. stated that his son is fourth generation to be raised in the Borough.

Councilman Lewis asked Council President James if we were going to make the appointments for Solicitor, Engineer, Code Officer and Treasurer. Mr. James deferred to the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Mayor’s Report –**

Mayor DePaul stated again that the previous Council accomplished a lot and he hopes that the new Council will continue getting work done to benefit the Borough.

### **New Business –**

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Breidinger, Jr; Council approved Ordinance 2018-001 fixing the tax rate at 11.7 mills for the calendar year 2018.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Tax Collector, Liz Hanni provided a spreadsheet to Council showing the new assessment values of a few properties in the Borough and was looking for approval to interim bill the difference.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved Tax Collector, Liz Hanni, to do an interim billing for adjustments of \$5.00 or more in Real Estate Taxes due to a re-assessment of properties in the Borough.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved a donation of \$18,000.00 to the Safety First Volunteer Fire Company.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, Jr., seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved a donation of \$8,700.00 to the Mary Meuser Library.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved a donation of \$150.00 to the Suburban EMS.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger, Jr.; Council approved a donation of \$500.00 to the West Easton Scholarship Fund.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Mr. Dees asked how long Council has to open the budget. Mr. Gehman replied until February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis; seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved to open the 2018 Budget.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Mr. Lewis asked Mr. Gehman if a copy of the budget could be emailed to each of the Council members.

**Entered Executive Session – 6:55 pm**

**Exited Executive Session – 7:35 pm**

Council President James stated that potential litigation was discussed during the Executive Session.

Mayor DePaul asked Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, to find out what it would cost for the Borough to become a member of the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Council President James asked for a motion for adjournment.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger, Jr.; Council approved to adjourn.

Motion passed 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
David W. Gehman, Borough Senior Clerk